

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Unique training event prepares 196th Soldiers for battlefield

By Capt. Eli Carr

196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. – More than 170 Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade are participating in an eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise, otherwise known as XCTC, at Camp Ripley, July 5-19.

XCTC is a unique mission-focused training event designed to certify the unit's level of proficiency in battle staff coordination and execution, leader competency and Soldier training readiness.

What makes this training event unique from other field operations is it is a realistic multi-echelon theater-immersed mission, incorporating over 500 other Soldiers from within the brigade.

The goal is to produce a wartime scenario-tested force, which is fully prepared for success on the battlefield.

"I have the distinct honor of serving with a comprehensive team of the finest Soldiers and officers in the South Dakota Army National Guard," said Capt. Christopher Janos, 196th HHC commander. "From planning, preparation and execution of the XCTC, the HHC 196th MEB has set the benchmark for future operations. We continue to prove our moto: 'One Team, One Fight.'"

From setting up the brigade's tactical operations center to the personnel sleeping areas, the HHC works together as a team to complete the tasks proficiently with the expediency of a well-honed team.

Already halfway through the training period, morale is retained through the training where Soldiers are able to refine their skill sets as one of the final major training opportunities before a portion of the unit deploys next year.

Soldiers see the opportunity the XCTC provides them, having already seen the growth in knowledge and confidence this training event has afforded them.

"I feel like I am more prepared having been here in the field doing my job," said Spc. Maggie Brown of Sioux Falls, assigned to the personnel section.



150707-Z-ZZ999-001: Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, work together to setup a tactical operations center during an eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise during their two-week annual training, July 7, 2015, at Camp Ripley, Minn. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler/Released)



150707-Z-ZZ999-002: Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, work together to setup a tactical operations center during an eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise during their two-week annual training, July 7, 2015, at Camp Ripley, Minn. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler/Released)



150707-Z-ZZ999-003: Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, work together to setup a tactical operations center during an eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise during their two-week annual training, July 7, 2015, at Camp Ripley, Minn. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler/Released)



150707-Z-ZZ999-004: Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, work together to setup a bivouac site during an eXportable Combat Training Capability training exercise during their two-week annual training, July 7, 2015, at Camp Ripley, Minn. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Charles Butler/Released)

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